

A
DISCOURSE
ON
Antichrist,
AND THE
APOCALYPS

SHEWING.

That the Number of the Beast $\chi \xi \varsigma$
ought not to be Translated 666 but 42 only,
That Christians have reigned a 1000 years, And
That *Mahomet* is the grand *Antichrist*.

By *Richard Franklin*.

L O N D O N,
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THE PREFACE TO THE READER.

THE cheif Design of this Discourse is, to demonstrate that the last and most Beloved Apostle of Christ, St. John; was a most true, a most clear and Rhetorical Prophet: he Prophecycd of the three grand Monarchies of the World.

First, The Roman.

Secondly, The Christian.

Thirdly, The Turkish Empires.

Of The Roman, he Prophecies that after 42 Emperours had reigned, Babylon should fall, and Christians should rise. Julius Caesar was the first, and Constantius Clorus was the forty second and the last Pagan Emperour of Rome.

Constantine M. was the 43, he pulled down Rome, and set up a fifth Monarchy of Christians at Constantinople, and the Christians did hold the Empire and chief City of the World in their hands a Thousand years. And then Gog Magog (the Turk) Conquered them according to St. Johns Prophecie.

To the Reader.

For *Constantine M.* the Founder of the Christian Monarchy, began his reign at *Rome* anno 310. and at *Constantinople* anno 315. *Ottoman* the the chief Turk anno 1300. began his Kingdom at *Saguta*, which was but ten or fifteen years before the *Christians Millennium* was compleated. But a Kingdom is not said to be Conquered, when some small Towns and Provinces in the Frontiers are invaded and taken; but when the King and Imperial City and Army is totally vanquished: neither could the *Tartarians* with all their Force and Numbers, overcome the Saints or ruine the *Emperour* and the *Beloved City* of *Cristendome*, *Constantinople*, till after they had reigned above a Thousand years.

And since *Gog Magog* with the *Saracens*, &c. have been the greatest destroyers of *Christendome*, and since their false Prophet so much opposes and exalts himself above *Christ*, I therefore pronounce *Mahomet* to be the grand *Antichrist*.

Farewel.

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IN my converse with Books and Men, I have observed that the name of *Antichrist* is commonly used as an ugly *Bear-skin vizard*; that one party puts on the face of another party, to render it the more odious; and every party, right or wrong, is sure to be branded with the Nick-name of *Antichristian*, as every oppressed or conquered party Comforts themselves with the name of *Persecuted*, and *Martyrs* practising

The *Patriark* of *Constantinople* was first called *Antichristian* by the *Bishop* of *Rome*, afterwards the *Pope* was proclaimed *Antichrist* by the Protestants; in the Reign of our *King Charles the first*, the *Presbyterians* called our *Bishops Antichristian*; in *Cromwells* time the *Quakers*, and other *Sektarists* called the *rigid Presbyterians*, *Antichristian*; and our *Holy Universities*, and our *Royal City* at its last Conflagration, have been reviled as *Seats of the Whore of Babylon*.

The *Antients* have also had as strange phancies of *Antichrist*, that he should be begotten by a *Diabolical Incubus*; and that *Enoch* and *Elias* are the two Witnesses in the *Revelations*, who appearing on Earth again, and Prophesying against him, should be slain by him.

The *Schoolemen* likewise have betrayed themselves to be but *blind Hagarens*, that they could not see the mystery of iniquity

ty, in the *Saracens*, and though they saw *St. Pauls Propheſie* of the falling away of the Nations from the *Roman Emperour* exactly fulfilled, yet ſtill their concluſion was, that *Antichriſt* is not yet come, the reaſon was, I ſuppoſe, either their ignorance or rather fear, becauſe their *Pope* looked and acted ſo much like *Antichriſt*, and therefore *Aquinas* and the reſt of the *School-men* are very ſparing in Writing on this point, ſome *Modern Divines* make *Antichriſt* to be an æmulatour, or Vicar of *Chriſt* or one that pretends to be for *Chriſt* in word, but in deed, is againſt him, and ſo *Antichriſt* muſt be the grand Hypocrite in the World.

Others think to ſolve all difficulties by diſtguiſhing between the mean *Antichriſt*, and the main or grand *Antichriſt*, and this is again ſubdivided into *Antichriſt within the Church*, and *Antichriſt without the Church*; and they ſay, every ſinner is a petty *Antichriſt* in a large ſence, but ſtrictly and properly *Antichriſt* is (as *Aquinas* defines him) *caput omnium malorum in perfectione malitia*, the wickedest rogue, the greateſt oppoſer of *Chriſt* in the World.

For my part I believe, that the term *Antichriſt* ought not to be ſtretched to ſo large a ſence, as to comprehend all ſorts of Enemies or all kinds of ſinners againſt *Chriſt*, but only ſome particular ſorts, for if every kind of oppoſition of *Chriſt*, if every ſmall degree of ſinning did formally denominate and conſtitute any perſon an *Antichriſt*, then the greateſt degree or kind of wickedneſs would render a perſon the grand *Antichriſt*, and if ſo, then we need ſeek no farther, for then the *Devil* muſt be the *Antichriſt*, for the *Devil* is a greater Adverſary to *Chriſt* and a wickeder perſon than any man in the World can poſſibly be: Yea he is the prime cauſe of all *Atheiſme*, *Antichriſtianiſme*, of all Hereſie and Sin in the World, yet he can't be an *Atheiſt*, or an *Antichriſt*, for he believes that *Jeſus* is come in the *Fleſh*, and is truly the Son of God, *Mar. 1. 24. Mar. 3. 11.*

Befides, the *Devil* oppoſed *Chriſt* in his life time, and his Religion and Diſciples in the Apoſtles dayes, as much as ever ſince, but the grand *Antichriſt* was not to appear, till laſt the dayes, ſo there are many *Hereticks* and *vicious liver*s in the Church, yet Hereſie and vice only puts them under the number and ſpecies of

of badreprobate *Chriſtians* in contradiction to the good and *Orthodox Chriſtians*, but they can no more be called *Antichriſts*, then the *Heretical Phariſees* and *vicious Sadducees* could be called *Anti-Jews*, for they Worſhipped no other God, but the God of the Jews.

Therefore, I ſhall interpret the Word *Antichriſt*, as any rational man would interpret an *Anti-moſes*, *Anti-mahomet*, *Anti-Jew* or *Anti-Gentile*, for a man or Generation of men of a contrary Religion to either of them. For *Antichriſt* cannot be a *Chriſtian* but muſt be a ſect of men, or elſe the head and ring-leader of a Faction or ſort of men, that are of a contrary Religion to *Chriſts*, for the word *Antichriſt* is ment ioned in no place of Scripture but in *St. Johns* Epiſtles only, *1 John 2. 22. 23. 2 epiſt. 7.* he is *Antichriſt that denies the Father, and the Son, and that denies that Chriſt is come in the Fleſh*; now neither of *St. Johns* definitions can agree to any *Chriſtians* in the World, for ſuch either never were, or elſe do ceaſe to be *Chriſtians*, for ſuch as deny that the *Meſſias* is already come, are *Jews*; they that deny the Father and the Son, deny the very eſſential form of *Baptiſm*, by which men are conſtituted *Chriſtians*, ſuch deny the chief Articles of our Creed, the incarnation of *Chriſt*, and the Trinity. And who and what were thoſe many *Antichriſts* that were in *St. Johns* dayes, *1 John 2. 18.* are expounded by *St. John* himſelf, *ver. 19.* to be ſuch as went out from the Church, and ſo diſcovered themſelves not to be true *Chriſtians*: there were many *Antichriſtian Jews*, and *Heathens* in *St. Johns* time, and many other prophane *Gnoſticks*, that were plotting and contriving another new Religion, in contempt of and oppoſition to *Chriſts*, for this mystery of iniquity began to work in *St. Pauls* dayes, *2 Theſ. 2.* Beſides, theſe *Antichriſts* are direſtly oppoſed to thoſe that *χαρις* *radix* or had the *Chriſtian* Religion ſtill abiding in them, *v. 24. 27.* for *χαρις* is the only proper word in Greek for *Chriſtianity*, and it comes from the ſame greek *radix* as *Chriſt*, and therefore muſt be the formal abſtract, that denominates any ſubject *Chriſtian*.

And if you interpret this *χαρις* the holy unſtion of the Spirit of Grace, the ſence is ſtill the ſame; for they that have not the Spirit of *Chriſt* are none of *Chriſts*, *Rom. 8. 19.*

There-

Therefore I say again, that the *general Effence of Antichrist*, consists in the contrariety of Religion to Christs, even as an *Anti-Socinian*, an *Anti-Lutheran*, or *Anti-Papist*, is one of a contrary opinion to the *Socinians*, *Lutherans*, *Papists*.

For it implies as much a contradiction to affirm, that *Antichrist* can be a *Christian*, as that an *Anti-Moses* or an *Anti-Mahomet* should be one of *Moses* or *Mahomet's* Religion; now since there are *three Religions in the World*, and but three only contrary to the Religion of Christ, hence I inferre, that there are three, and but three sorts of *Antichrists*, *Jews*, *Heathens*, and *Mahometans*.

The *Jews* deny that Christ is yet come in the Flesh; the *Heathens* worshipped other feigned *Gods*, besides the true God of the *Christians*, and both most maliciously persecuted the Name, Religion, and Disciples of *Jesus*, therefore they both were formally *Antichrists*.

But yet both *St. John* and *St. Paul* expected and Prophesied that in the *last dayes*, after their death, upon the falling away of the Nations from the Roman Emperour, or (as others say) of *Christians* from the Faith, another *worse and wicked* *Antichrist* should appear, who should oppose and exalt himself against Christ more then either *Jews* or *Heathens*, 2 *Thess.* 2. 2. 3, 4, 5, 6.

Hue and Cry has been sent for this *Antichrist* throughout the Earth, all the *marks of the beast* described, and they that have been taken upon suspicion are the *Pope of Rome* and *Mahomet*.

But the main ground of mens mistakes in this controversie, is their misinterpreting and wrong applying of *St. Johns* Prophesie of the *Whore Babylon*, and the *Beast* thereof.

'Tis granted on all sides, that *Babylon* in the *Revelation*, is not the *Eastern Babylon* of *Semiramis* and *Nebuchadnezzar* in *Chaldea*, for that was destroyed by *Cyrus* the *Persian*, and all the *Jewish* Prophesies against her were fulfilled long before *St. Johns* time. Therefore this *new Babylon* must be some other great City like unto *old Babylon* for *Idolatry* and *persecuting of the Saints*.

1. And first, the Character of the *Whore of Babylon* in the 17. chapter of the *Revelations* can agree to no other City in the world

world but to *Rome* only, because no other City in *St. Johns* days reigned over all the *Kings* and *Nations* of the Earth, but *Rome* only; yet in point of Prudence and Policy the *Apostles* did not openly and plainly Prophesie the destruction of *Rome*, for fear of exasperating the *Romans* to greater cruelty against *Christians*.

2. No other City then was built on seven Hills, but *Rome* only, viz. 1. *Mons Palatinus*, 2. *Capitolinus*, 3. *Viminalis*, 4. *Aventinus*, 5. *Esquilinus*, 6. *Calvus*, 7. *Quirinalis*.

3. No other Country was destroyed by ten *Kings*, which in *St. Johns* time had not the name and Power of *Kings*, but the Countrey of *Rome* only; there were indeed many more *Kings* which erected Monarchies in the remote Dominions of the old *Roman Empire*, as in *Germany* and *Brittain*, &c. which never came near, or entred *Italy* with Hostile Armies: Therefore I shall insist only on those ten *Kings* which invaded *Italy* and destroyed the City *Rome*.

1. The first was *Alaricus* King of the *Gothes*.
2. *Attila* King of the *Hunnes*.
3. *Genfericus* King of the *Vandals*.
4. *Byorgus* King of the *Alani* or *Lithuani*, then the *Gothes* invaded *Italy* and sacked *Rome* again.
5. *Odoacer* King of the *Heruli*.
6. *Gundebaldus* King of the *Burgundians*.
7. *Alboinus* King of the *Lombards*.
8. The King of the *French*, *Pipin*, and *Charles the Great* his Son, the first Emperour of the *Germans*, who with his *French* and *German* Souldiers made a most complete conquest of all *Italy*.

9. *Mahomet III.* King of the *Saracens* who conquered *Naples* and fired the very Suburbs of *Rome*.

10. *Mahomet the great*, King of the *Turks* who took *Otranto* and frightened the people of *Rome* out of their Habitations, so that the City was left naked and desolate, some of these *Kings* invaded the Country of *Rome* several times, as the *Burgundians* twice invaded *Italy*.

So the *Gothes* took *Rome* twice, yet their King *Theodoricus* is not to be accounted a different King from *Alaricus*, because they

they were both Kings of the same blood, of one and the same Nation and People; the like may be said of the *French Kings* and *German Emperours*, the Successors or Countrymen of *Charles the great*, for the *French and Germans* were all one in the days of *Charles M.* Yea to illustrate the Truth of this Prophecie according to the present state of *Italy*, since 'twas ransacked by these *ten Kings* and since the fall of most of their Kingdomes and Power in *Italy*, 'tis again ordered by Divine Providence, that *Italy* is divided into ten States and Principalities, no more nor lesse, as

1. The Kingdome of *Naples*.
2. The Popedome of *Rome*.
3. The Commonwealth of *Venice*.
4. The Dukedome of *Florence*.
5. The Dukedome of *Millain*.
6. The Dukedome of *Mantua*.
7. The Dukedome of *Urbine*.
8. The Principate of *Parma*.
9. The State of *Genoa*.
10. The State of *Luca*.

4thly. No other City had *seven sorts of Kings*, or *seven forms of Governments*, whereof five before *St. Johns* time were fallen, the sixth then was, and the seventh was to come shortly, but *Rome* only,

1. The *Romulean Kings*.
2. *Consuls*.
3. *Decemviri*.
4. *Triumviri*.
5. *Diktatours*.
6. *Pagan Emperours*.

7. *Christian or Constantinopolitan Emperours*. I know that the *seventh King of Rome* is commonly reputed the *Pope*, but that contradicts all Reason and History of times.

1. For First *St. John* sayes exprelly that when the *seventh King* comes, he shall continue but a *very short time*, *Rev. 17. 10.* but the *Pope of Rome* has been accounted supream Head of the Church above a 1000 years, and has claimed his Temporal power over all Kings and Princes above 600 years, and has been King

King or Lord of *Rome* above 800 years.

2. The *seventh King* must be the next to the *sixth King of Rome*, but the next to the sixth in *St. Johns* dayes, was *Constantine the Great*, he continued but a short space at *Rome*, but removed to *Constantinople*, and at his death divided the whole *Roman Empire* into three parts between his three sons.

To his eldest son *Constantinus* he gave *Germany, France, Spain, Brittain, &c.* His second son *Constans* he made Emperour of *Rome, Illyricum, Affrica, &c.* His third son *Constantius* was Emperour of *Constantinople* and the East.

Upon the death of the two Elder sons, his youngest son, the *Constantinopolitan Emperour* was again Emperour of *Rome*, and all its former Dominions.

Neither did this Union last long, for within 50 years *Theodosius the great* divided the whole Empire again the second time, between his two sons, to *Arcadius* the eldest he gave *Constantinople* and the East, to *Honorius* the youngest he gave *Rome* and the West. After the death of eleven Western Emperours, the Empire of *Rome* was again the third time devolved on the *Constantinopolitan*, as the right Heir apparent, who set up *Charles* at *Ravenna* to keep *Italy* in peace and order, and *Rome* was turned into a subordinate Dukedome, and when these *Exarks of Ravenna* were conquered by the *Lombards*, then the *Pope* by palpable Rebellion and Usurpation made himself King of *Rome*; yea *Alaricus* King of the *Goths*, *Gensericus* King of the *Vandals*, *Odoacer* King of the *Heruli*, &c. were Kings of *Rome* before the *Pope*. So that the *Pope* is more likely to be the seventeenth King of *Rome* than the seventh.

3. *Constantine the great* must be the seventh King of *Rome*, because he was one of a different Religion, and also an Emperour of a different Place from the *sixth King* in *St. Johns* dayes, yea this *Constantine the great* may passe for the seventh and Eighth, for a double and single Emperour too, he may passe for the beast, that was, is not, and yet is, at whom the World so much wondred, *Rev. 17. 8. 11.* for he was first for a small time King of *Rome*, after he had erected another Imperial Seat, viz. *Constantinople*, it might have been said of him, he is not King of *Rome*, but of an higher place for *omnis denominatio fit a prestantiori*

tiori, and yet is, because he had as much power and command over Rome, as any before. Now since 'tis said there are but seven Kings of Rome, and yet an eighth is mentioned, therefore those words [*he is the eighth; and is of the seventh*, Rev. 17. 11.] may be interpreted *one of the seven*, or the same with the seventh, as Constantine was.

The Heathens wondred at the seeming folly and madness of Constantine the Great, in forsaking Rome, whereas Cammillus was highly extolled for his wisdom in firing down to the ground the Town Veji, lest the conveniencies and pleasantness of Veji should tempt the Romans to leave their Antient Seat, the City Rome.

If this interpretation please not, the Roman History informs us, that there was an eighth King of Rome, which was a limb, part or member of the seven former, there were but seven complete, total, universal Kings of Rome, but yet at last there was a partial half or Western Emperour. Thus upon the first division of the empire by Constantine the Great, there was an eighth or partial Emperour Constant, upon the re-union of the Empire, he is not, upon the second division by Theodosius, he is again, Honorius and his Successors in whose time the great City Rome was to the wonder of the world Conquered by those puny inconsiderable Nations of the Gothes and Vandals, &c.

Constantine the Great must needs be the seventh King of Rome because he governed by different Laws, and made a greater alteration in the Roman Empire than either the Consuls, Decemviri, Triumviri or Cæsars did at their changing of the Government. Yea all Historians and Chronologers make a new era epocha and date in their computation of time at the reign of Constantine the Great, and there is this good reason for it, because then the number of the Beast was fulfilled, Rev. 13. 18. 19. And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is Wisdom, let him that has understanding count the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is $\chi\xi\varsigma$. The meaning of which Prophecy is, that when Forty two Emperours should have finished their reign in Rome, then the number of Heathen Emperours should be accomplished, the persecution should cease, and Babylon

bylon should fall, as may be clearly inferred from the Chapters immediately following, Rev. 14. 3. 6. 8. Rev. 15. 23.

For the clearing this mystery, these propositions must be demonstrated.

1. That the number of the beast is not 666 but 42 only.
2. That there were 42 Emperours of Rome, and but 42 before it fell.
3. In the Reign of the 43th Emperour, Rome fell, the persecution ceased, and Christians had joy.

1. That the number of the beast is not 666. but 42 only.

$$\begin{array}{r} \chi \quad \xi \quad \varsigma \\ 22 \quad 14 \quad 6 \\ \hline 42 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \chi \quad 22 \\ \xi \quad 14 \\ \varsigma \quad 6 \\ \hline 42 \end{array}$$

For to interpret the number 666 is to contradict all experience and History of the times, in the year 607 the Pope arose, and in the year 622 Muhomet, but in the year 666 there was no remarkable accident throughout the world, and no mans name could ever as yet be found out to expresse this number; 'tis an ancient Tradition in the Church, that the word $\lambda\alpha\lambda\epsilon\upsilon\sigma\theta\epsilon$ doth signifie this number, but the only true meaning thereof is this, that the beast, which St. John prophecyeth of is a Latine i.e. a Roman or Italian; but it doth not determine, whether it be the Latine Emperour or the Latine Pope. The Christian Emperour of Rome was a Latine, as well as the Pagan, and the good old Bishops of Rome were Latines as well as the Pope.

Neither can it be proved that there were 666 persons, no more nor lesse, Governours of Rome, from the very first foundation thereof to its final destruction. It must be confessed that the numeral letters $\chi\xi\varsigma$ do signifie according to the Greeks ordinary way of numbering 666. But thus every fool might count the number, and there is no mystery or difficulty in this interpretation, but St. John sayes, it requires extraordinary wisdom, a rare understanding to count this number, Rev. 13. 19. *erit mibi magnus Apollo, that does it.* Now the Greeks have a way of numbring sometimes by their letters contrary to, and diverse from the common way of numbring, as appears by Homers intituling his

first

first book α, his ninth book ι, his tenth κ, his eleventh λ, his twelfth μ, &c. whereas according to the Greeks ordinary way of numbring ι signifies 10, κ 20, λ 30, μ 40. thus *Adrianus Amerotius* observes, that sometimes among the Greeks the first letter α stands for one, and the twenty fourth letter ω for 24, for that the two and twentieth letter in the Greek Alphabet χ may stand for 22, and the fourteenth letter ξ for 14 as *Homer* names his two and twentieth and fourteenth book, and ε is the usual figure of 6 as for Example.

$$\begin{array}{r} \chi \quad \xi \quad \epsilon \\ 22 \quad 14 \quad 6 \\ \hline 42 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \chi \quad 22 \\ \xi \quad 14 \\ \epsilon \quad 6 \\ \hline 42 \end{array}$$

A comparison between the numeral figures of *Homer's* books and the chapters of *Genesis* or *St. Mathew*, &c. will most clearly evidence the Truth of this mystery, for the 22th. and the 14th. chapters of *Genesis*, and *St. Matthew* are entituled κς and ιδ but 22th. and 14th. books of *Homer* are χ and ξ.

The number, the name, and the mark of the beast are all mentioned together, *Rev.* 13. 17. 18. The beast is the Roman Emperour, for so in *Daniel*, the Assyrian, Persian, and Greek Empires are called and compared to Beasts. The mark of the Beast are those Idols he set up to be worshipped, so *εσπαγνα* signifies; *Act.* 17. 29. whosoever would not own the name of a Roman Subject, nor worship his Idols should neither buy nor sell, i. e. have neither Life nor Liberty. Therefore the number of the beast must be the number of those Emperours, that should uphold the Idolatry and persecution of Rome. The number of the beast is said to be the number of a man, and that mans number is χξς i. e. that man, who shall be the forty second Emperour of Rome, shall be last of the Idolatrous persecuting Emperours, and this the event proves true, and all Divines say, that *Prophecies* ought to be interpreted according to the event.

2. The second Proposition to be demonstrated, is, that there were 42 and but 42 Emperours who reigned over Rome, before it fell, during the reign of 42 Emperours, Heathens bare the sway,

sway, but afterward the Empire of the World fell into the hands of Christians, this must be proved by an authentick Catalogue of the Roman Emperours.

Julius Caesar.
Octavius Augustus.
Tiberius.
Caligula.
Claudius.
Domitianus.
Sulpitius Galba.
Silvius Otto.
Vitellius.
Flavius Vespasianus.
Titus Vespasianus.
Domitianus.
Nerva Cocceius.
Trajanus.
Adrianus.
Antoninus Pius.
Antonius Philosophus.
Aurelius Commodus.
Antoninus Commodus.
Perinax.
Didius Julianus.
Septimius Severus.
Basianus Caracalla.

Opilius Macrinus.
Heliogabalus.
Alexander Severus.
Jul. Maximinus.
Gordianus.
Philippus Arabs.
Decius.
Gallus Hostilianus.
Emilianus Maurus.
Valerianus.
Gallienus.
Flavius Claudius.
Quintilius.
Valentius Aurelianus.
Annius Tacitus.
Florianus.
Valerius probus.
Carus.
Diocletianus.
Constantius Chlorus.
Constantinus M.

See Heylins Geography in the Margin.

Against this Catalogue of Roman Emperours, some object, that there were not so many, before Rome fell.

I Answer, the Modern Historians make no mention of *Quintilius* and *Florianus*, because the one reigned but 17 days, and the other not a month. But *Quintilius* was brother and Heir apparent to *Flavius Claudius*, and so was *Florianus* to *Annius Tacitus*, and both were elected Emperours by the consent of the Senate as saith *Vopiscus*.

2. Object. Others mention many more Emperours than these, I Answer, there were many more usurpers of, and competitors for the Empire, without the consent of the Senate, but yet there was but one chief prevailing Emperour; so there were many Co-Emperours, and Associates in the Government, yet they are to be accounted but for one Head or Governour of Rome,

Rome; even as those many men in a Senate or Parliament make but one Senate or Parliament.

3. Object. Others say, there were *Christian Emperours of Rome* before *Constantine the Great*, as *Philippus Arabs* and *Chlorus*. I Answer, if *Philippus Arabs* was Baptized, 'twas but in secret, so he was but only a *Nicodemian Christian*, and *Chlorus* was only a great favourer of Christians, but none were publick Professours and establishers of Christianity, before *Constantine the Great*.

4. Object. There were Persecutions after the death of *Constantine the Great*, and that *Romes* Pagan Idolatry revived in the reign of *Julian the Apostate*. I Answer, *Julian* was a born, bred and professed Christian at first, but afterward turned Apostate, and his one short persecution was but as a short storm in the Summer, which does not argue it therefore Winter: that was but the last effort of dying *Babylon*, which had received her mortal wound from *Constantine the Great*. Some Christians also have persecuted other Christians since, but the whole race of *Pagan Emperours* was then ended, and the Ancient Christians in *Julians* time did comfort one another with this cordial, that 'twas but a little Cloud or Tempest which would soon vanish away, even as there were some *lucida intervalla*, many times of tranquillity and refreshment to the Christians, before the number of *Pagan persecuting Emperours* was fulfilled.

3. And now I proceed to demonstrate the third proposition that after that 42 Emperours had reigned in *Rome*, the number of the beast was accomplished, and *Babylon* fell.

1. For the 43 Emperour of *Rome*, *Constantine the great*, was a professed Christian, and the first subverter of the *Roman Empire*; for in his reign the *Idolatrous Religion of Rome* was suppressed, the Gospel had its liberty to be preached to, and heard of all Nations, the Heathenish Priests were displaced, and other Civil and Military Officers were discountenanced, the whole race of *Pagan Emperours* were extinct, and the persecuting power of *Rome* was taken away.

2. *Constantine the Great* degraded *Rome* from being the Emperesse of the World, and made her fall down as an inferior subject to a superiour imperial City *Constantinople*, whether he

he transported most of *Romes* magnificent antiquities and most splendid Ornaments.

3. He removed the *Legions* and *Colonies of Roman Soldiers* out of the North and West, into the East; to fight against the *Persians*; &c. whereupon followed a most dreadful inundation of the barbarous Nations over all *Italy*.

4. He abrogated the old *Roman Laws*, called *lex Julia and Papia*, containing great commands and privileges of a married life, and zealously promoted and encouraged a *Monastical* and unmarried state among Christians, whereby the *Roman Empire* was so enfeebled and weakened through want of procreation of Children, that it had not Souldiers enough to encounter the mighty Armies of the barbarous Nations.

5. He disbanded the *Prætorian Order* (for their frequent exorbitances and rebellions) which were the chief *Guardians* and supporters of the *Roman Emperours*, as the *Fanizaries* are of the great *Turk*.

6. He divided at his death the *Roman Empire* between his three sons into three parts.

2. The number of the beast is first mentioned in the 2 last verses of the 13 chapter of the *Revelation*, and in the 2d verse of the 14 chapter, and no where else, and immediately follows the great joy, blessing, and thanksgiving of those Christians that had overcome the number of the beast, i. e. those that survived and continued Christians, after that the number of 42 Emperours had reigned in *Rome*.

Yea they sang the same song of *Moses* for their deliverance from the *Babylonish beast*, which the *Israelites* did sing for their deliverance from the *Egyptian Pharaoh* at the red Sea, *Rev. 14.*

2. 3. 4. *Rev. 15. 23.*

Now all *Ecclesiastical History* shews, that the first and greatest rejoycing of Christians was in the reign of *Constantine the Great*. Yea this their praising and thanksgiving can be applied to no other time what ever; for the other falls of *Babylon* afterward by the *Goths*, *Vandals*, &c. were causes not of joy but of grief and lamentation to Christians, at that time the only inhabitants of *Rome*.

And now since we have proved that *Constantine* was the ruiner of

of that famous and Antient Empire of *Rome*, and since for so doing he is so much reproached and condemned by *Julian, Zozimen* and others, it concerns Christians to vindicate and justify that holy and wise Emperour, from whom all *Christendome* has received so much good; therefore first, *Constantine the Great* ought not to be blamed for relinquishing *Rome*, that antient Imperial Seat, because he acted only according to Divine Revelation, and the *insinck and command of Heaven* from God had commanded all Christians to come out of *Babylon*, Rev. 18. 4. Whether *St. Peter* ordered and appointed *Rome* to be the *Metropolis* of *Christendom*, and the Bishop thereof to be supream head of the Church, cannot be proved out of Scripture; but this is certain, that *St. John* after *St. Peters death* by Divine Revelation from Heaven expressly commands all Christians, both Emperours, Bishops and people of *Rome* locally to depart out of the accursed City, for God was resolved on the utter ruine of that Idolatrous persecuting abominable place, and to make it an habitation of Owls, Satyres, Devils and unclean Beasts Rev. 18. 21. to 24.

2. That a strong Bullwark against the *Persians* and other *Enemies* in the East was necessary for the upholding the *Roman Empire*, and that the Eastern part thereof was the best and richest, and that therefore 'twas most fit to defend that before the poor Barbarous West, no rational man can deny: And that *Constantine the Great* chose out the most convenient place throughout the whole World to make the Imperial Seat, viz. *Constantinople*, all Cos-mographers and Travellers will justify.

3. He was as discreet, wise and valiant, as temperate, sober, and universally virtuous, as industrious, victorious, and as careful for the publick good as any of the former *Casars*, but he could not reclaim the *great men of Rome* from worshipping their ancient Idols, and therefore resolves to build a City of pure Christians, wherein God should be worshipped in as great glory, freedome and purity as he was in old *Jerusalem*.

In short, the decree in Heaven against *Rome*, was past; and she deserved utter destruction, in justice she ought to be hated and abhorred, and plagued by the Universe, because she had so cruelly persecuted the Saints, and Tyrannized over the Nations of
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the Earth so long, without all mercy and measure, Rev. 18. 5. 6. 7. and it ought to be no more our wonder that the *antient City and Empire of Rome* should have a fall, than that those antient and great Cities of *Nineveh* and the *Eastern Babylon*, those mighty and famous Empires of *Assyria*, *Persia*, and *Greece* should come to the like shameful end. Yea many of the barbarous Nations (as *Jornandes* affirms) did protest, that they were sent by God, and had commands and Revelations from Heaven to destroy *Rome*, 'twas not without some extraordinary reason, that *Attila King of the Hunnes* styled himself the scourge of God to lash the whore of *Babylon* for all her abominations.

To conclude my former argument, all the Prophecies that follow in the 14 and 15 chapters of the Revelation immediately after the first mention of the number of the beast in Rev. 13. 18. 19. were fulfilled in the reign of *Constantine the great*, and therefore the number of the beast was then expired. For my part I look upon the Revelation of *St. John*, not only as a Canonical book, but also a great honour to, and a clear conviction of the Truth of the Christian Religion, against *Atheists* and *Infidels*; as *Daniels* prophesie of the rise and fall of the *Assyrian*, *Persian*, and *Greek Monarchies* was to *Alexander M.* and others that read it, a conviction of the excellency of the *Jewish Religion*, for the Testimony of *Jesus* is the spirit of prophesie.

And if you compare the Revelation with the History of the decay and ruine of the *Roman* and *Constantinopolitan Empires*, you may find every word thereof exactly fulfilled, only allowing some *Hyperbolical expressions*, which all *Rhetoricians* count lawful.

Jesus himself foretold the destruction of the famous City of the Jews, *Jerusalem*; and after that was performed by *Titus Vespasian*, *Jesus* reveals to *St. John* (in the very next Emperours reign, *Domitian*, who sent *St. John* into *Patmos*.) 1. the destruction of *Rome*, The most famous City of the Heathens. 2. He Prophesies of the Resurrection of *Christians*, out of their poor, low, persecuted condition to great Riches and Honour, Rev. 20. 3. That the Empire and Government of the World should shortly fall into the hands of *Christians*, so as they should reign, rule and get the upper hand and Dominion over those Heathens, that had

so cruelly and inhumanely persecuted and domineer'd over them so long before, Rev. 20. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. 4. 'Tis farther prophesied, that this Empire reigning, and fifth Monarchy of Christians should continue a 1000 years. 5. That after a 1000 years reigning *Gog Magog* should make war against, and overcome the Saints, Rev. 20. 7, 8. Now that St Johns Revelation is to be expounded as a *Rhetorical Prophecie*, or *Prophetical History* of the future state of *Rome*, *Christendom*, and *Turky*, I shall now demonstrate by the event. The *Empire* of *Christendom* began in *Constantine the great*, and ended in *Constantinus Paleologus*. *Gog Magog* is the *Turk* who came out of *Tartary* or *Scythia* the Countrey of *Magog*, and after the 1000 years of Christians reigning were expired, I say, about the next age, the *Turks* conquered the beloved and imperial City of *Christendom*, *Constantinople*, which the primitive Christians built on purpose for their Christian Emperour to reign in, out of their detestation of *Idolatrous bloody Rome*, An. 310. *Constantine the great*, the first Christian Emperour, began his reign: An. 1300 the cheif Family of the *Turks*, the *Oguzian* or *Ottoman* line, began their *Sultany* at *Saguta*, and their war against the Christians. An. 315 *Constantinople* the Imperial City of *Christendome* was built. An. 1452 'Twas totally conquered by the *Turks*; *Constantinople* indeed was besieged and much endamaged by the *Scythians* in the reign of *Anastatius*, and again by the *Saracens* in the dayes of *Leo Isaurus*, the *Latines* also possessed the Imperial Throne thereof 60 years, but the *Latine Emperours* were Christians, as well as the *Greeks*, and were not *Magogs* off-spring, but *Constantinople* was never taken, and the Emperour thereof totally overcome, but by the *Turks* under *Mahomet the great*, An. 1452. so that the Christians held the cheif City of the world about 1130 years. The *Jewish and Christian Prophets*, took no notice of the petty *Empire of Germany*, of those small Kingdoms of *England*, *France*, or *Spain*, &c. but cheifly Prophefied of the *grand Monarchies of the World*, and they are six, 1. The *Affyrian*, 2. *Persian*, 3. *Greek*, 4. *Roman*, 5. The *Empire of Christendom* or *Constantinopolitan*, and 6 the *Empire of Gog Magog* the *Turk* or *Tartarian*. *Gog Magog* now flourishes more than all the *Sons of Noah* besides. For not only *Tartary* and *Turky* is now in *Gog Magogs* possession but also those vast Empires of *Persia* and *Chi-*

China have been conquered by him. Yea the great *Mogul* reckons himself the 10th. from that most wonderful conquerour of the East, *Tamerlain a Tartarian*. The great *Turk* also has gotten a large footing in the *Venetian* and *German Dominions*, & there is a firm League made between the Emperour of *Turky* & the great *Cham of Tartary* that the great *Cham of Tartary* shall aid the *Turk* with 60000 Souldiers on all occasions, and if the male line of the *Ottomans* fail, the *Cham of Tartary* shall be Emperour of *Turky*. Under *Gog Magog* Christians now suffer a second death, i.e. oppression, persecution and misery, as their first death was under the *Heathen Romans*. How long *Gog Magog* shall prosper we can't determine, but we have Prophecies that he also shall be destroyed, St. John sayes, fire from Heaven shall devour him, Rev. 20. 9. and then Christians may expect a second Resurrection and reigning, after which there shall be no third death, Rev. 20. 13. and more glorious times may be hoped for hereafter, than ever Christians enjoyed before, Rev. 21. and 22. chap. for *Christ's Kingdome* is an universal Kingdome, and of his Dominion there shall be no end, Dan. 7. 27. And to me it seems strange that this Prophecy being of such great concernment to *Christians* and *Turks*, that neither of them should understand or take more notice of it before.

1. From what hath been said, hence I inferre that the *Chiliasts opinion* is both vain and erroneous, for the first Resurrection of *Christians* and their *Millennium* of reigning, is past long ago; because *Gog Magog* is already come, and yet he was not to come till the Christians had reigned a 1000 years, and no History records, no eye ever saw, no ear ever heard, that any of the Christian Saints and Martyrs bodies rose out of their Graves and lived on earth again, or that the body of *Christ* descended from Heaven to reign on a Throne on Earth. Therefore the first Resurrection of the Saints must be interpreted according to the fence of that Resurrection promised to the Jews, Ezek. 37. 1. to 15. where the Israelites being in an hopelesse distressed condition are compared to dry bones without life, but God promises to bring them out of their Graves, and to put his spirit into them, and make them live again, and become a great Army, and return into the Land of *Israel*. Now none of those Jews that were slain, dyed, and were buried in Graves in *Babylon*, ever lived again or returned to the Land of *Israel*, but only their posterity or surviving brethren. A desperate, helplese, distressed condition is called in Scripture death, Exod. 10. 17. Psalm 88. 3, 4, 5. 2 Cor. 11. 23. therefore the first Resurrection of Christians must be their first deliverance from the Heathens Persecution, and oppression, and banishment in the reign of *Constantine the Great*, who was the first lister up of the Heads and

Hearts

Hearts of Christians, who made Christians Governors of Cities, Generals of Armies, and Priests of Churches; In the first four Monarchies of the World, Heathen Kings and Priests bore the sway, but under the fifth Monarchy the Saints possessed the Kingdom, and held the Government of the chief places of the World in their own hands above a 1000 years.

2. Hence I inferre that that *Babylon* which St. John Prophesied against, is fallen above a 1000 years ago, for first *Gog Magog* is come, and he was not to come till Christians had reigned a 1000 years, and 'twas impossible for Christians to rise and reign, till *Babylons* power was fallen.

2. About an. 315. when Constantine the great set the Imperial Crown on *Byzantium*, then was *Rome* degraded, about anno. 410. *Rome* was most ruinously sacked, and fired down to the ground by the *Goths*, & again an. 455. by the *Vandals*, and as the *Chaldean Babylon* was said to be fallen, when 'twas taken and its Empire was translated to the *Persians* by the grand *Cyrus*, although that *Babylon* continues still a famous City called *Bagdet*; so though *Rome* be yet a great City yet she has been often made desolate and naked, for her seven Heads have been cut off long ago, and her Empire quite gave up the Ghost upon the death of *Augustulus*, before anno 500. yea those ten strange Kings which should be the destruction of *Rome*, most of their names and Kingdoms are utterly perished: lastly the falling away of the Nations from the *Roman Empire* is past, 2 *Theff.* 2, 3, 4. and began about Anno 365; about which time was a most ominous, prodigious Earthquake, and the water swelled higher then the houses and Mountains; then and shortly after happened the dreadful inundation of *Barbarous Nations* over the *Roman Empire*, as *Goths*, *Hunns*, *Vandals*, *Almaines*, *Quades*, *Pelts*, *Scots*, *Saxons*, *Heruli*, *Alani*, *Lombards*, *Franks*, &c. over-run like swarms of Locusts all *Romes* Territories. Yea if you interpret St. Pauls falling away of Christians of falling from the Faith, *Mahomet* observed and affirms that in his time there was the greatest Apostacy of Christians into *Heresie*, *Idolatri*, and *Prophaneness*, more factions and divisions than ever were known before; and pretends this to be the grand reason that moved him to make a new model of Religion, to unite all men of all Religions and humours whatever, under his Banner. In short *Antichrist* that man of sin, is already revealed, the *Roman Emperour*, that hindred his coming, is fallen long ago, therefore the grand falling away in 2 *Theff.* 2. 3, 4. is already past.

Some say *Pagan Rome* is fallen, but not *Christian Rome*. I Answer, *Rome* was never taken and destroyed since St. Johns dayes, but when 'twas totally *Christian*: and this is the great wonder why those Plagues and Woes denounced against *Rome* for her Idolatry, persecutions, and other

other wickednesses, should fall upon the Heads of Christians? to which I answer, that at the destruction of *Rome*, the reason why the Christians (then the only inhabitants thereof,) suffered so much, was their own fault; either their ignorance of the Prophecy or their unwillingness to leave their old Habitation, for they were all commanded by God locally to depart out of *Babylon* lest they should be partakers of their punishments, Rev. 18. 4. If *Lot* had not run out of *Sodom*, he had been burnt with the Sodomites; if *Tobias* had not left *Niniveh*, as his Father *Tobit* commanded him, he must have suffered with the *Ninivites*. Thus a voice from Heaven warned the Christians to fly out of besieged *Jerusalem* to *Pella*, i. e. to *Greece* the Country of the *Juvenis Pellaus*, *Alexander M.* where God intended to set up an Empire of Christians: therefore all the Christians in *Rome* should have fled out of that accursed place, with their Emperour *Constantine the great*; for God was resolved to revenge on her all the blood of his Saints, and with Fire and Sword utterly to bring her to perpetual desolation, Therefore we may better distinguish between *Imperial Rome*, and *Papal Rome*; *Imperial Rome* both Pagan and Christian is fallen totally, but *Papal* is not; yet the Pope though he continues still a mighty Prince, yet he also has received a dreadful wound by *Luther*, *Calvin*, and *Cranmer*, &c.

3. Hence I inferre that St. John did not primarily and intentionally direct his Prophecy against the Pope and *Papal Rome*, but against *Imperial* and *Pagan Rome*, for St. John says, Rev. 1. and c. 22. that he Prophesies of things that must shortly come to passe, and now tis about 1500 years since St. Johns writting, and yet the Pope continues in great Power, and not likely to fall totally, as yet. 2. *Papal Rome* stands not upon 7 Hills, but since 'twas burnt by the *Goths* and *Vandals*, tis new built on *Campus Martius*, nearer the River *Tibris*: so that *Papal Rome* is a new different City from old *Rome* in St. Johns dayes, neither is the Pope one of the 7 Heads of *Rome*, but one that cut off her Head. But yet the Character of the Whore of *Babylon* & the Beast that she rides on, may secondarily by way of similitude and Analogy be applyed to *Papal Rome* and the Pope, even as whatsoever was written to the Jewish and Apostolical Churches primarily, intentionally, and directly, was also written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the World are come.

And if *Papal Rome* be guilty of the same sins and wickedness, that *Pagan Rome* is reproved for in Scripture, then she must expect to partake of the same Plagues and punishments; yea tis already visible, that the Nations are in part already fallen away from the Pope, as they did formerly from the old *Roman Emperour*, the *English*, *Scots*, *Irish*, *Dutch*, *Danes*,

Danes, Swedes, with a great part of Germany and France, are revolted from the Popes jurisdiction and Religion. The Pope looks just like the Emperours Ape, for as the Emperours of Eastern and Western Babylon were insatiably Covetous and Ambitious to grasp all the Kingdoms of the Earth into their fists, so the Popes of Rome challenge universal and supreme power over all Churches and Nations in Christendom; and as they were the chief promoters and Patrons of Idolatries, and most cruel persecutors of those Saints, that refused to Worship their Idols, so are the Popes. And this is the only difference between the Pagan Romans, and the Papal Romans, They Worshipped dead Heathens, as Mars, Apollo, Venus, Minerva, These worship dead Christians, as the Virgin Mary, St. Peter and other Saints; they made to themselves and prayed to images of God, these images of Holy Men and Women, so for their persecutions there is this difference, the Heathens persecuted all Christians in general, but the Pope in the general is a Christian, and only persecutes some particular Christians, that are opposit to his particular opinions and Factions. Papal Rome is now become a Whore, as well as old Babylon, and has made her self and the Kings of the Earth drunk with the blood of the Saints: her Churches are full of Idols, and her Streets of abominable Stews.

4. The Character of the *Beast of Babylon* cannot be applied to *Mahomet*, for *Mahomet* is no *Idolater*, neither are any of his Successors that have espoused his Religion, in any probability of conquering the City, or altering the Religion of *Rome*. Some say that *Constantinople* is built on 7 Hills, but 'twas not so in *St. Johns* time, 'twas then but poor *Byzantium*, neither did it then reign over all the Kings of the Earth, neither can *Constantinople* now be called the *great Whore* and *Mother of Harlots*, as *Babylon* is called, *Rev. 17. 4. 5.* for the *Turks* abhorre all Worshipping of, or by Images.

5. Though the *beast of Babylon* be primarily and most properly the *Pagan Emperour of Rome*, and though he was an *Antichrist* because of a contrary Religion to *Christ*, yet he was not the *grand or worst Antichrist*, for he persecuted in the *Apostles dayes*, but the *grand Antichrist* prophesied of by *St. John*, and *St. Paul* was not to appear till the *last dayes*, after the *Apostles* death. And 'twas the usual practice of the primitive Christians to pray for the continuance of the *Roman Empire*, because they feared worse times afterwards, under *Antichrist*: and 'twas the general belief of the Christian Church in all ages, that the worst *Antichrist* should arise upon the fall of the *Roman Emperour*, this opinion is grounded on *St. Pauls* Prophecy, *2 Thess. 2. 6, 7. The mystery of iniqui-*

ty doth already work, only he who now letteth, will let, until he be taken out of the way, and then shall that man of sin be revealed, i. e. there were then some sons of Belial plotting and contriving in their own braines a new model of Religion in opposition to Christianity, but the Roman Emperour considering how many of his subjects were dayly murdered for their fidelity, and constancy in the Christian Religion, in point of prudence and policy he would not suffer another new Religion to be broached in his Dominions, as long as he abode in full power and Authority, for fear of another mortality of his Subjects, and another opposition of his own Religion. Since then the Imperial Scepter is departed from Rome, we may safely conclude that the grand Antichrist is come, for the Pagan, Eastern and Western Emperours of Rome are all long ago expired; as for the German Emperour, he is but of a late extraction, the successor of the French Charles the great, neither has he now any Power or Sovereignty over Italy, nor so much as one Town or Castle, or one Foot of Land in Italy, the Emperours Rodolphus Habsburgensis and Vincenslaus were the last, who sold and gave away all their possessions and rights in Italy. The lot then is fallen between the Pope and Mahomet, for they both rose upon the decay of the Roman Emperour, and both rose almost together, the Pope an. 607. and Mahomet an. 622.

But the best way to determine this controversy is to consider, to whom the definitions, and descriptions of the grand Antichrist in sacred Scripture do most directly and most properly agree. Now 1. *St. Johns* definition of Antichrist does properly belong to Mahomet. 1 *John* 2. 22. 23. he is the Antichrist that denies the Father and the Son, which words imply, that the very essence and chief Character of the grand Antichrist consists in this, viz. in denying that God has a Son and in denying that Christ is the Son of God. Now all Nations (as *Plutarch* observed) worshipped God by the name of Father, as *Jupiter, Mars, piter* *μαρις* *αυδων* *θεων*, and if you consult the suffrage, and consent of Nations, you shall find it the Creed of the Universe (before Mahomet arose) that God has a Son. So the Hebrew, and Chaldeans believed *Prov. 30. 4. Dan. 4. 35.* The Greeks and Latines commonly styled famous Heroes Sons of Jove.

But Mahomet perceiving, that the Christian Religion was built on this fundamental principle, that *Jesus Christ* was not begot by man but was truly the Son of God, and considering also that he himself was but the Son of a mean obscure man, and lest he should be forced to acknowledge Christ to be his better and Superiour in birth and worth, he therefore strains all his wit and policy, to undermine this Article of the Christian

Religion above all others, affirming it impossible, that *God* should have a *Son* without granting a *Goddeſſe*, yea in his *Alcoran* he not only denies *Chriſt* to be *Gods Son*, but alſo derides and cenſures *Chriſtians*, as *Tritheites* and *Polytheiſtes* for worſhipping the ſacred *Trinity*. But I know no *Proteſtants*, that ever accuſed the *Pope* of denying the *Trinity* and the *Divine Sonſhip* of *Chriſt*, neither is it ſaid that he is *Antichriſt* who denies *Chriſts Offices*, but who denies his *Divine Sonſhip*, or who denies the *Father Son* and *Holy Ghoſt*.

2. *St. Pauls* propheticall deſcription of the *grand Antichriſt* moſt exactly belongs to *Mahomet*, 2 *Theſſ.* 2, 3, 4, 5. 1. For firſt *Mahomet* oppoſed and exalted himſelf againſt, and above all that is called *God*, and worſhipped (i. e. not only all the *Idol gods* whom the *Heathens* called *Gods* and worſhipped) but alſo againſt *Mofes* and *Chriſt* who are called *Gods* in *Scripture*, *Exod.* 4. 16. *Exod.* 7. 9. For he magnified and boated of himſelf, as a greater *Prophet* than *Mofes* and *Chriſt*, and he was the only impoſtor, that ever had the daring impudence to deviſe and ſet up another new *Religion* in direct oppoſition to *Chriſts*, and all other ways of *Divine worſhip* in the world.

1. Now that thoſe words (all that is called *God* and *Worſhipped*) are not to be interpreted *πολιτικῶς* of civil Magiſtrates or *Temporal Kings*, nor *ἐκκλητιαſτικῶς* of Biſhops and *Prieſts*, but *θεολογικῶς* of objects or eſſe *Modes of Divine Worſhip*, I thus demonſtrate; firſt the *Greek word* (for all that is *Worſhipped*) is *σέβαςμα*, now the *Athenian* *σέβαςματα* (for which the *City* is ſaid to be *κατείδωλος* wholly given to *Idolatry*, and for which the people are ſaid to be *ὑπερβολικῶς* too ſuperſtitious, or too great worſhippers of *Demons*.) were not the *Areopagites* Magiſtrates or *Prieſts of Athens*, but thoſe *Idols* whom they worſhipped, *Acts* 17. 16. 23. or their manner of adoration, and modes of devotion.

2. *St. Pauls* words are moſt plainly paraphraſed by *Daniels* prophecy of *Antiochus Epiphanes* *Ch.* 11. 36. to 40. He is ſaid to exalt and magnify himſelf above every *God of the heathens* and the *God of Gods* i. e. the true *God of Iſrael*, and to ſet up a new *God of Mahuzzim* to be worſhipped, in oppoſition to all other *Gods*, ſo did *Senacharib*, *Iſa.* 36. 19, 20. ſo did *Nebuchadnezzar* *Dan.* 3. 14. to 19.

3. I know many apply theſe words to the *Popes* exalting himſelf above all *Kings* and *Biſhops* in *Chriſtendome*, therefore I ſhall prove, that *Supremacy in Church and State* does not formally of it ſelf argue a perſon *Antichriſt*. For as the *King of England* is in all cauſes, and over all perſons within his dominions, ſupream head and *Governour*, ſo was *Conſtantine the great* and *Theodoſius the Great*, and many other good

Chriſtian

Chriſtian Emperours ſupream and *Univerſall Governours* over all the *Roman world*. So *King David* and *Solomon* &c. Had the ſupream power over all the *prieſts* and *princes* in *Iſrael*, yea ſometimes alſo it happened, that the *High prieſt* of *Iſrael* or *Judah* was ſupream over all in that *Church* and *ſtare*, as *Ei Mattathias*, yet none ever had the impudence or ignorance to call any of theſe *Antimoſes* or *Antichriſts* for they were all excellent *Saints*.

4. At that ſame time when *St. Paul* wrote this *Epistle* to the *Theſſalonians*, the *pagan Emperour of Rome* the vileſt Monſter of *Mankind* did moſt proudly and tyrannically exalt himſelf above, and oppoſe all the *kings* and *princes* of the *Earth*, and depoſed, perſecuted and murdered all good *Biſhops* and *prieſts* at his lawleſſe pleaſure, and therefore *St. Paul* muſt prophecy of another ſort of lawleſſe oppoſer and exalter of himſelf againſt and above all that is called *God* and all ways of worſhip. Now no other Impoſtor in the world ever made himſelf a greater prophet than *Mofes* or *Chriſt*, or broached a new religion in contempt and deſyance of all other religions, but *Mahomet* only.

5. If the *Popes* proud exalting himſelf above all *Emperours* and *Kings* does formally of it ſelf denominate and render him the *grand Antichriſt* then *Gregory*. 7. alias *Pope Hildebrand* muſt be the firſt *Antichriſt*, although there were above 90 *Popes of Rome* before him from *Boniface the third*, and before this *Boniface* there were above 60 *Biſhops of Rome*.

For this *Pope Hildebrand* was the firſt *Pope*, that challenged temporal ſupremacy over all *princes* and *kings* in *Chriſtendome* about an : 1073. but ſurely *Antichriſt* was come many hundred yeares before, becauſe the *Roman Empire*, was fallen long before that time, yea and had ſuffered a double tranſlation, firſt from *Italy* to *Greece*, ſecondly from *Greece* to *Germany*,

Neither can this text be applied to the *Popes* exalting himſelf above all *Biſhops* and *Prieſts* in the *Church*, for *Prieſts* are not called *Gods* in *Scripture* as *Kings* are, therefore *Gregory the great* his calling the *Patriarch of Conſtantinople* the forerunner of *Antichriſt* for aſſuming the title of *Univerſal Biſhop*, muſt be taken with a grain of Salt; for doubtleſſe 'twas farre from the intentions of that good Emperour *Mauritius* to ſet up *Antichriſt*, doubtleſſe 'twas far from the thoughts of that holy *Patriarch John Fejunator* (ſo called for his frequent ſailing) to deſtroy *Chriſtianity* or to ruine the *Church*.

Therefore upon ſerious conſideration, I believe that *Gregory the Great* either ſpoke paſſionately, out of ſelf intereſt and indignation, that the late upſtart *Biſhop of Conſtantinople* ſhould overtop the ancient *Biſhop of Rome*

Rome, or he spake Prophetically, for it may be inferred from *Gregories* calling him the *for-runner of Antichrist*, that twas his, and the Churches belief in those dayes, that *Antichrist* was not then come, but yet shortly expected. And so it came to passe, for in the Reign of *Heraclius*, the successour of *Phocas*, the successour of *Mauritius*, about 30 years after *Gregory*, the *Antichrist*, i.e. *Mahomet* appeared. But this is undoubted truth which *Gregory* spake, that the title of *Universal Bishop* favoured too much of Luciferian pride and arrogance, and that none of his predecessors at *Rome* ever usurped it before. For twas an innovation in Church Government, and a meer temporal donation of the Emperour. *Mauritius* gave it first to the Patriarch of *Constantinople*, the next Emperour *Phocas* gave it to the Bishop of *Rome*. You will now demand, whose right it was? I answer, it can't be proved by the word of God to be the right of either: yea Christ sharply reproves his disciples for striving who should be the greatest among them. But this I say, that the Pope of *Rome* has had more wit and better luck to keep what he had gotten, then the Patriarch of *Constantinople*, and by the donations of some Emperours and other great Friends, and by his crafty politick taking advantages of the neglects and weakness of other Emperours, the Pope is now become the richest, and most Potent of all Bishops in Christendome, so that the Popes temporal and ecclesiastical supremacy ought not to be accounted any matter of Conscience, or piece of religion, but only a thing of Fortune and Favour in this world, and tis held only by Policy and Power. And as long as the King of *England* holds the sword in his own hand, he need not fear that he shall be guilty of transgressing any one of Gods Laws by keeping the Pope out of *England*: For the Pope was not made universall Bishop over the Church of Christ, till about ten years after *Gregory* the *Great*, sent *St. Austin* to convert the *English*. anno 595.

And the first time the Pope usurped the temporall Lordship of *Rome*, was, when the *Exarchate of Ravenna* was wholly overthrown by the *Lombards*. For then the *Constantinopolitan* Emperour had no Governours left in *Italy*, but Bishops only.

Afterwards Pope *Gregory 2* proved a downright rebell against the Emperour *Leo Isaurus*, for the Pope excommunicated him out of the Church, and forbad the *Italians* to yield any homage, allegiance, or tribute to him, because he suppressed Images and Saint-worship in the East.

Afterward Pope *Adrian* the first sets up a new Emperour of the *VVest*, *Charles M.* who with his Father King *Pipin*, and his Grandfather *Charles Martel*, having conquered the *Lombards* in *Italy*, gave all the Lands

Lands of the exarchate of *Ravenna*, *Urbine*, *Ancona*, *Spoleto* &c. to the Bishoprick of *Rome*. The Countesse *Matilda* added *Ferrara* and other Lordships. And doubtlesse *Constantine M.* and many other good Christians did long before give large gifts and revenues to the Bishops of *Rome*, for that State and Glory they lived in, and those vast charges and expenses they were at, in sending and receiving Embassies to and from all parts of Christendome, could not be maintained without great donations and possessions. When the *French* had thus raysed and promoted the Pope to great honour, riches and power, he stood in feare and awe of none but the Emperours of *Germany*; Out of their hands therefore they first Extorted the whole power of *Investitures*, then by subtle contrivances forced them at last to relinquish *Italy*, and afterwards, perceiving that their power and authority would grow stronger by the Emperours weaknes, they granted royall prerogatives to the tributary Princes of *Germany* to prevent all future insurrection of the Emperours against the insulting tyranny of *Papal Rome*. Then the Popes growing proud with their abundance of riches and honour they began to unbishop themselves, neglecting religion, and the care of souls, and to turn altogether States-men and Politicians and Souldiers for the advancement of their worldly wealth and pompe, and at last came to that insolence and impudence as to trample upon crownes and Scepters, to insult over all Emperours and Kings, the works of the imperious whorish woman of *Babylon*. Thus not vindicating in the least measure the popes wickedness, we have laid the grand *Antichristianisme* at *Mahomets* dore, and there are reasons enough and enough for our casting off the Pope, without making him the grand *Antichrist*.

2. *Antichrist* is described 2 *Thef.* 2. 4. Sitting in the temple of God, as God, shewing himself that he is God. Indeed those Pagan Emperours *Caligula* and *Dioclesian* clad themselves in such majestick glorious habits of the heathens Gods, and their images were set up in the temples to be adored as Gods, but this was before the time of *Antichrists* appearing, for the *Roman empire* was most potent and flourishing in *Dioclesians* reigne. and to sit as God, is not to be worshipped, but to act like the prince of *Tyrus*, *Ezek.* 2, 3. because thy heart is lifted up, and thou hast said I am God, I sit in the seat of God, yet thou art a man and not god, though thou hast set thine heart, as the heart of God, behold thou art wiser than *Daniel* &c.

Thus *Mahomet* thought himself as wise as God, of greater knowledge and understanding than any man, for he pretended to have invented a better way of divine worship, wiser laws, and a more excellent religion, than

than *Moses* or *Christ* prescribed. Or as the *prince of Tyrus* thought himself invincible, so *Mahomet* thought himself as strong, was as bold, courageous, and fearless of any harm or Enemies, as if he had been *God almighty*, for he undertook to oppose all men of all religions on earth, both *Heathens, Jewes and Christians*. In short he promulged his *Alcoran* with as much confidence and commanding authority, as if the mouth of the Lord had spoken it, and that not privately in by-corners, but publickly in the open temples that were consecrated to the *God of Christians*. In short, he pretended to be sent by *God*, and invested with the authority of *God*, as *Moses* and *Christ* indeed were; and as *Christ* and his apostles preached the Gospel in the Temple of the Jews and heathens, so *Mahomet* turns the Christian churches into Mosques, and therein teaches and celebrates another religion contrary to *Christ*, as in all places of his conquest is visible.

'Tis observable that the first four monarchies of the earth, were erected out of the church, by heathens, in Idolatrous places, but the grand *Antichristian monarchy* was to be set up in the church i. e. in the midst of Christians. And I know some from these infer that *Antichrist* must be an *Apostate Christian*; tis certain *Mahomet's father* was an heathen, and his mother a Jew, and *Mahomet* was neither Circumcised in his infancy, till by *Abdalla the Jew*, nor baptized, till by *Sergius the Monk*, a little before the publishing of his *Alcoran*, yet some Historians say he was a *Gnostick Christian*, and that he was well versed in the Scripture appears by his frequent quotations and contradictions thereof, and the *Saracens* (who received the Christian faith in the reign of the Emperor *Valens*) were the first revolters to and chiefe promoters of *Mahometanism*.

But I cannot see any reason from *Paul's* words to believe that *Antichrist* himself should be an *Apostate Christian*, but that there should be an Apostacy before or upon his coming, and that he should reside and reign in Christian places, and should teach his wicked Doctrine in the very Temples of *God* as the *Mahometans* do in the Greek and the other Eastern churches, and that he should make a shew as if he had the Authority of *God*, by pretending to be the *Supream Lawgiver* and worship-orderer of the whole world.

3. 'Tis prophesied, that *Antichrist's* coming should be with great power and lying wonders. Now all know, that *Mahomet* made way for his religion, not by convincing reason, or power of the Spirit, but by the power of the sword and mighty armies, and though he never pretended to divine miracles, as *Moses* and *Christ*, yet he used many cunning

ning tricks and juggling delusions, for having by his drunkenness and whoring brought upon himself most grievous Epileptick fits, to excuse the infamy thereof, he told his wife, that the *Angel Gabriel* appeared to him in such majesty, as cast him into that consternation and foaming.

He had also trained up a young *Pidgeon* to pick Pease out of his ear, which when he published his *Alcoran*, he pretended was the *Holy Ghost* sent from Heaven to reveal the mind and will of *God* to him. About this *Pidgeon's neck* he hanged a piece with this inscription in golden letters, *he that can put a Yoke on the Bulls neck, let him be King*. The Bull which *Mahomet* had tamed long before, hearing his Masters voice presently rushes in amongst the People with the *Alcoran* about his horns, and layes his Head in his Masters lap quietly, to be yoked by him, which the ignorant people admiring, forthwith proclaimed him *King* and *God's greatest Prophet*, above *Moses* and *Christ*.

And after his death his body was placed in an iron chest at *Mecca*, which was drawn up to the top of the vault, and still hangs as it were in the Air by virtue of a great Loadstone placed in the top or rooffe of the Fabrick by Art, on purpose to delude vulgar apprehensions.

He is the grand *Antichrist*, that has done the greatest mischief to *Christ's Church* and Religion. And the greatest blow and wound that ever Christendom received from any Sect of men, was from the *Sword and Alchoran of Mahomet*, for his Religion and Armies have over-run almost all *Asia* and *Africa* and a great part of *Europe*, and that which is most to be lamented, is, that all those famous places of *Christ's Birth, Life and Death, Jerusalem* and all *Judea*, yea all those renowned Churches to whom the Apostles dedicated all their Epistles, as *Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colosse, Crete, Thessalonica, &c.* (except the Church of *Rome*) are all slaves and Apostates to *Mahomet*, yea all *Egypt, Assyria, Persia, India, Arabia, Barbary, Greece, &c.* are now under the *Antichristian yoke*.

And what though *Mahometans* commend *Christ* as a good man and true Prophet, yet *Mahomet* is extolled as a better and greater Prophet; what though Christianity be tolerated, connived at among them, yet 'tis despised as an inferior subordinate and worser Religion than *Mahomet's*, and is in all places of their Conquests thrust out of the chief and best Temples of *God*.

As for that common opinion that *Idolatry* is a necessary ingredient of the grand *Antichristianisme*, we have proved already, that the Jews and *Mahometans* are formally *Antichrists* and yet they abhorre all appearance of *Idolatry*. And secondly, the grand *Antichrist* must be a worse and

and wickeder opposer of Christ, than those Idolatrous Heathens in the Apostles dayes. Therefore those that maintain that the Pope is the grand Antichrist, must also maintain that the Pope (though a Christian) is of a more contrary Religion to Christ than Mahomet: and that the Papists are worse Idolaters than the Heathens that sacrificed to *Venus*, *Bacchus* or *Apollo*; and that the Papists who will dye for Christ, are worse than the Jews who killed Christ. But surely Religion (though mingled with some corruptions) is better than no Religion, and those that worship Christ (though in an erroneous way) are better than those, that do not worship Christ at all. However the reformers of the Church of England have thorowly to the utmost of their knowledge and power, abolished all the errours and corruptions of the Church of Rome; And therefore are no wayes lyable to the charge of *Antichristianisme* (As God willing shall be shewed shortly in my defence of the renowned *Cranmer*.)

FINIS.
